Allocation of foodgrains to BPL households in Kerala

1983. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPL households identified by the Government of Kerala;

(b) the number of BPL households for which foodgrains at BPL rate are allocated;

(c) the reasons for the difference, if any;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has represented to allocate foodgrains at BPL rate to all identified families; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The State Government of Kerala reported in April, 2007 number of BPL families in the State as 20.22 lakh. In November, 2007, the number of BPL families including AAY families has been reported as 20.85 lakhs.

The Government of India allocates foodgrains to the States including Kerala, for BPL families (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana Families), worked out on the basis of poverty Estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and Population Project of Registrar General of India for 1st March, 2000 or the number of cards issued, whichever is less.

The number of BPL families in Kerala on this basis is 15.54 lakh. Therefore, allocations of foodgrains to the State of Kerala under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are being made for 15.54 lakh BPL families.

The difference in the number of BPL families used by the Government of India for making allocations and those reported by the State Government is because the State Government has issued ration cards to higher number of BPL families based on its own identification.

The State Government has requested for increasing allocations of foodgrains on the basis of BPL ration cards issued by it. Since the Government of india makes allocations of foodgrains to all the States and UTs based on the above mentioned norms (1993-94 poverty estimate and March, 2000 population estimate), the request of the State Government has not been accepted.

Import of pulses

1984. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of imports of pulses has gone up;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to step up indigenous production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Prices of imported pulses mainly chana, tur, masoor, yellow and dun peas have shown an increase during the last one year. As per information received from trade circles, this is on account of the 25-30% lower production as compared to the